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Tips for Draft Guards

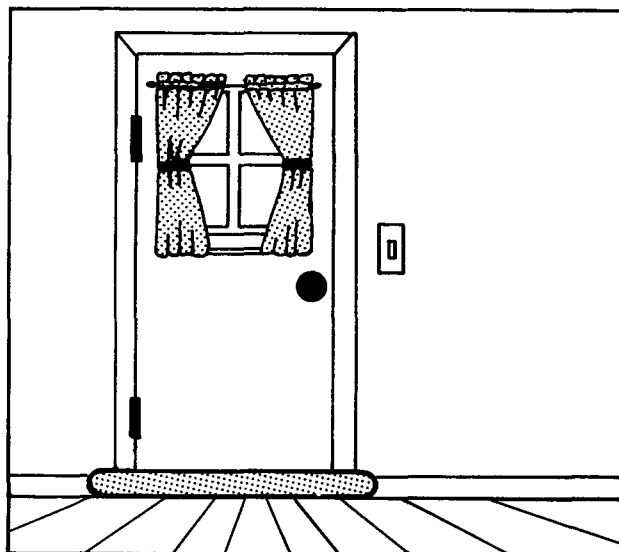


Figure 1. Place a draft guard on the floor to stop cold air leaks.

A solution for doors and windows that leak cold air is a fabric tube filled with sand. Place it on the floor or against windows to jam up those troublesome drafts. Use your imagination and make each draft guard or "draft dodger" fit the personality of the room or person who will use it (figure 1).

Here are directions for the basic shape of a draft guard. Following them are a number of suggestions you can use or expand on when making your own.

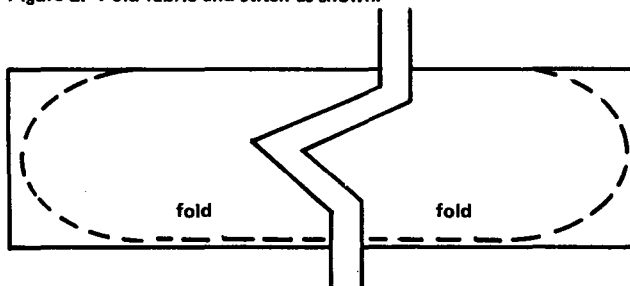
You will need:

- 1) clean sand
- 2) approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of fabric
- 3) miscellaneous scraps and craft materials

You will be making two fabric tubes. The inner tube should be of sturdy, tightly woven fabric to prevent the sand from seeping onto the floor. (Sand works best as a filler because it is adaptable enough to adjust easily to any angle or crack, yet heavy

enough so it won't be blown away by a large draft.) The outer tube will be more decorative and it will also be possible to remove it for laundering.

Figure 2. Fold fabric and stitch as shown.



Step 1) Cut two strips of cloth 8 or 9 inches wide and at least 2 inches longer than the width of the door or window you plan to cover.

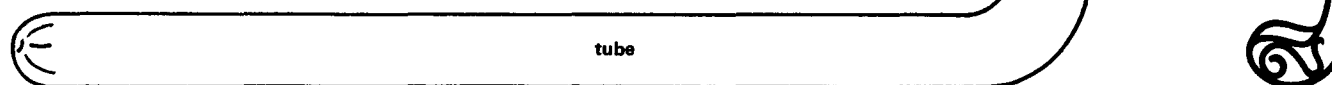
Step 2) Select the strip intended for the inner tube and fold it in half lengthwise. Stitch in an oval or cigar shape, leaving one end open. Clip the excess fabric and turn it inside out (figure 2).

Step 3) Fill the tube with sand. Leave enough room inside for the sand to shift. This will insure a tighter fit (figure 3).

Step 4) Stitch up the hole on the end and set this tube aside.

Step 5) Follow the same process you used in step 2, but substitute cover fabric.

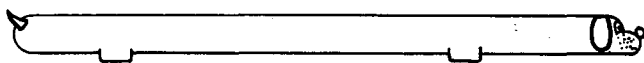
Figure 3. Fill the tube with clean sand.



Now place the first tube inside the second. The end can be closed by basting, or with snaps, buttons, or Velcro. A loop can also be attached at this end so your draft guard can be hung from the doorknob when not in use.

Now that you've got the basic shape, use your imagination. With the help of odds and ends you probably have around the house, you can create custom-designed draft guards.

Using felt and buttons for eyes, you can make an image of your family pet.



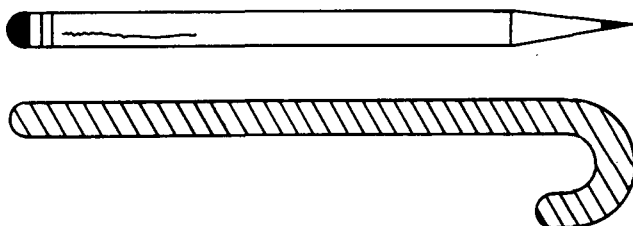
Use plaid fabric, add a long tongue, and you've got a plaid snake.



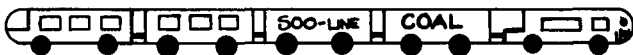
Add a pipe cleaner wick and a felt flame and your candle is burning at both ends.



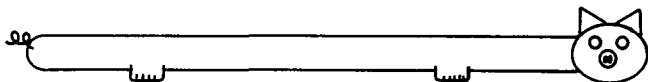
Make a pencil, or a candy cane for the holidays. For the candy cane you will need a piece of wire coat hanger to sew into one end. When your draft guard is finished you can bend it into the shape you want and then hang it on your doorknob.



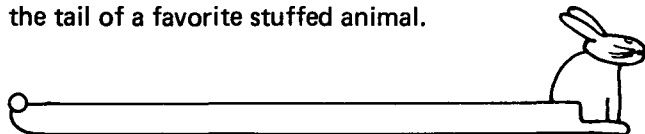
Children's rooms are a good place for more playful draft guards. Applique or use textile paints to create this train.



Or use a pipe cleaner for a curly tail and change it into a pig with a four-hole button for a nose.



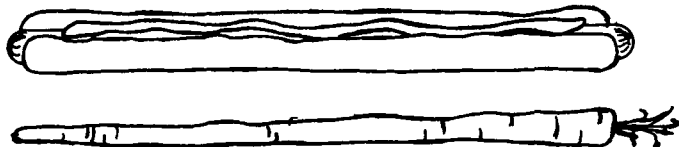
Or try this draft guard that has been transformed into the tail of a favorite stuffed animal.



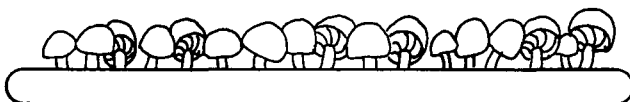
Characterize someone in your family.



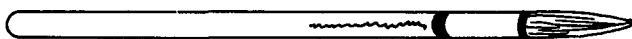
Or make your favorite food.



Use fabric glue to attach felt cut-outs that re-create your yard or garden or favorite spot.



How about a paintbrush for an artistic friend? Strands of black yarn or fabric could be stitched to cover fabric for the brush.



Here are more ideas.



And more . . .



The possibilities are endless, and the materials used can be fancy, such as embroidery or needlepoint, or simple, using anything you have around the house (felt-tipped markers, scraps of felt, or buttons).

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